

Reserves Look Good In Friendly At Walton

By "CHILTERN"

Walton & Hersham 1, Wycombe Wanderers 4

THE fact that Wanderers won this game—and won it easily—doesn't really matter. What is important is that 17 Wycombe players were given a trial. Of these, five were last season's reserves, one was a former player returned, and one was a promising newcomer.

And all these seven strangers to the first team ranks put on worthy performances.

In the second-half Peter Eyres, Martin Priestley, Vic Sherbourne, Vince Faulkner and Billy Gallacher replaced five first teamers — with the exception of new boy Viv Busby — and all fitted well into the Wycombe pattern.

Busby, a 17-years-old inside-forward from Gommers, played in the first-half and showed that, although lacking senior experience, he is going to prove a valuable find.

The Wanderer returned was former centre-half Mike Holliday who missed all last season due to a cartilage operation. He is obviously going to challenge for one of the half-back positions.

Of the regulars, Charlie Gale was the hardest worker, alongside solid-as-ever Rundle. Tony Horseman was the most active forward, getting good support from wingers Thompson and, when he cut in, Merrick.

Keith Samuels also showed some good touches but, to me, looked to be panting a bit hard.

TOO GOOD

Even without Worley, Bates, Baker and French, Wycombe were far too good for this shabby-looking Athenian League, premier division, side.

Gallacher, who always gets things done while looking as if he is taking his time, also played well in his half. His passing was precise and his tackling tenacious. He also laid on Horseman's goal-of-the-match.

In the second-half hard-working Peter Roystone moved to centre-forward to let Horseman get back to his inside-left position. Immediately the forward-line linked up better.

Reserve defenders Eyres, Priestley, Sherbourne and Faulkner were all very steady, particularly the latter two.

Goalkeeper John Maskell and right-back veteran John Beck both performed as they have become expected to — with credit. I could not blame Maskell for Walton's goal — they scored first — which was headed home from

close range off a hard through ball.

Samuels equalised with a shot that went in off the goalkeeper.

In the second-half Roystone bludgeoned home two goals. One that must be credited to Merrick who did all the work. Then Horseman cracked one home from the edge of the penalty area from a crafty pass from Gallacher.

But don't get too excited yet. This opposition was not up to anything Wanderers are going to meet in their Isthmian League programme.

Teams: Wycombe — first half: Maskell; Beck, Roystone; Holliday, Rundle, Gale; Thompson, Samuels, Horseman, Busby, Merrick.

Second half: Maskell; Eyres, Priestley; Sherbourne, Faulkner, Gale; Gallacher, Samuels, Roystone, Horseman, Merrick.